Independent' dated the 3rd December, 1990, published from Bombay under the heading "Indian firms in shady rackets of ~ money laundering in Sikkim" **P**

(b) if so, -whether the Income Tax Department have taken any action against the firms involved; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative; what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir.

(c) Investigations have revealed that certain business concerns have been engaged in laundering their undisclosed income through individuals and companies registered in Sikkim since Indian Income tax Laws were not applicable to Sikkim at the reve-vant time.

Notices under section 148 of the Income tax Act, have been issued to bring to tax income escaping assessment in respect of certain companies incorporated in Sikkim as the enquiries showed that the control and management were wholly in Delhi. These proceedings have been stayed by the Sikkim High Court.

नागपुर में बंबई उच्च न्यायालय की एक न्यायपीठ की स्थापना

*40. श्री विश्वास राव रामराव पाटिल: क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने नागपुर में बम्बई उच्च न्यायालय की एक न्यायपीठ की स्थापना करने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार को प्रस्तुत किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या ब्यौरा है ; और

(ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री साथ में न्याय मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (डा० सुब्रह्मयन स्वामी) : (क) मुंबई उच्च न्यायालय की एक स्थायी न्यायपीठ 1-5-1960 से नागपुर में कार्य कर रही है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Refund of Extra Excise Duty Collected

41. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMARAO PATIL:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the excise and customs duties refund issue; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the resentments expressed by the Members of Parliament during the last Session of Parliament about the unjust refund to excise duty to the industrialists which was not due to them but to the consumers has been taken into consideration while taking a decision in the matter; and

(c) what are the figures of such excise duty repaid during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 and how much of this amount was paid to each party along with their names during each year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Govern-

ment have in principle taken a decision **to** bring forward **a** suitable legislation regarding refund of exicse and customs duties. The Government proposes not to refund such duties to manufacturers and importers as they wold have already paseed on. the duty burden to the customers. The proposed amendments are being formulated.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The amount of excise and customs duty repaid during 1987-88 1988-89, and 1989-90 are Rs. 233.32 crores, Rs. 278.45 crores and Rs. 333.09 crores respectively. The details of the amount paid to each party would be difficult to[1] collect since the number of such parties n&ay run into thousands and the time, effort and expense involved in collecting this information in respect of some thirty thousand recipients from hundered of offices situated all over the country would not be commensurate -with the results.

Offer of special assistance to India by IMF

42. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will **the** Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IMF is prepared to offer special assistance to India under the Contingency Compensatory Fin ancial Facility to meet her oil import bill;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would still seek a loan from the IMF.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE **AND** THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Discussions are being held with the International Monetary Fund to explore the possibilities of drawing resources available to member countries, in the particular from the Com-satory and Contingency Financing, Facility.

Negotiation with JAPAN to promote Exports and Tourism

43. SHRI S. MADHAVAN; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new stratecy has been worked out to generate additio nal exports, particularly to Japan in the context of the current balance of payments situation arising from Gulf crisis; and

(b) what steps have been taken to negotiate with Japan to increase ex ports and promote tourism;?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) Japan is one of the major countries identified as thrust markets for increasing Indian exports. Government is pursuing various export promotional steps to increase our exports to this market. These include regular interaction with the Japanese on official & trade levels, participation in major international fairs and exhibitions in Japan, Buyer-Seller meets, undertaking programmes with Japanese asistance to strengthen our export capabilities etc.

India is also receiving :aissis!tancie from Japan for the development of tourist infrastructural facilities in the Buddhist circuit. In September 1990, former Commerce Minister addressed a Seminar on India Travel and Tourism organised to launch the "Visit India Tourism Year 1991" in Japan.